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¹ Reconsidering custom memory allocation

Emery D. Berger, Benjamin G. Zorn, Kathryn S. McKinley

November 2002 **ACM SIGPLAN Notices**, Proceedings of the 17th ACM SIGPLAN

Conference on Object-oriented programming, systems, languages, and applications, Volume 37 Issue 11

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Programmers hoping to achieve performance improvements often use custom memory allocators. This in-depth study examines eight applications that use custom allocators. Surprisingly, for six of these applications, a state-of-the-art general-purpose allocator (the Lea allocator) performs as well as or better than the custom allocators. The two exceptions use regions, which deliver higher performance (improvements of up to 44%). Regions also reduce programmer burden and eliminate a source of memory ...

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